US Army Corps of Engineers®
Engineer Research and Development Center

Topographic Engineering Center

Terrain Analysis Branch/Mobility Counter Mobility Team

Engineering Route Study (ERS)

Description and Background:

The Engineering Route Study (ERS) is an unclassified country-scale graphic designed to provide basic information on the major surface transportation systems in conjunction with terrain and climate data. The ERS is intended for use by Army and other Department of Defense contingency planners who are responding to crisis events or other international situations.

Key Capabilities:

The ERS graphic provides current information on transportation systems and terrain and environmental data.

Highway system information includes road classification such as expressway, all-weather or fair-weather, surface type such as hard or loose surface, and distance in kilometers. The ERS graphic can include steep grades, sharp curves, ferry locations, key bridges and tunnels, border stations, and other man-made or environmental hazards affecting the major transportation routes. Other transportation systems delineated includes C-130 capable airfields, strategic sealift capable ports, and major railroad lines.

Terrain and environmental data includes key streams and rivers, surface configuration (plains, hills or mountains), areas of potential flooding and landslides, and descriptions of drainage and climate data.

Supporting Technology:

The ERS is a stand-alone graphic product produced using ArcView and ArcGIS. The base map is created using VMAP level 0 or 1 data. Transportation information comes from a variety of data sources including native and commercial maps, native, United States Government and international intelligence sources, imagery and other open sources. Surface Configuration is derived from DTED or GTOPO30 data. Individual themes or layers are available for some of the studies. During FY04, production will switch from ArcView to ArcGIS.

Benefits:

The user can apply the ERS data to their specific needs. The ERS is intended to provide data at the country or operational level to assist the warfighter in planning a variety of missions including military operations, humanitarian relief, transportation studies, and drug enforcement.

Current Status

As of 26 July 2004, 81 studies covering 94 countries have been completed.

Point of Contact

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